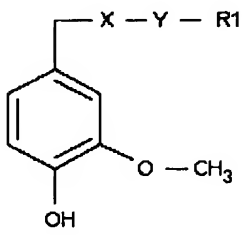
IN THE CLAIMS

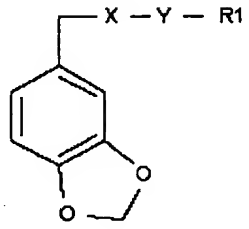
Please delete claims 1-8 and insert therefor claims 9-22.

1-8. (cancelled)

9. (new) A method of reducing, suppressing, or preventing snoring comprising administering to a patient a vanilloid compound selected from the group consisting of the following formulae:



(I) and



(II)

wherein

X represents a linear, saturated, monounsaturated or polyunsaturated, and substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_4 alkyl group;

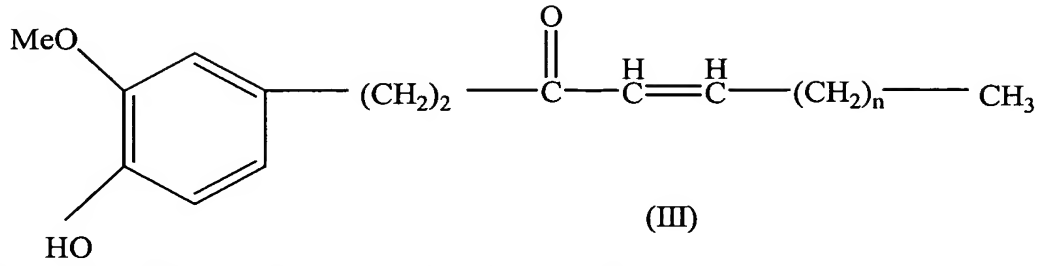
Y is selected from the group consisting of -C(O)N- and -C(O)-; and

R1 represents a linear, branched or cyclic chain, saturated, monounsaturated or polyunsaturated, and substituted or unsubstituted C_2-C_{24} alkyl group.

10. (new) The method of claim 9 wherein said vanilloid compound is selected from the group consisting of piperine, gingerols and shogaols.

11. (new) The method of claim 10 wherein said vanilloid compound comprises at least one shogaol.

12. (new) The method of claim 11 wherein said at least one shogaol corresponds to the general formula (III):



(III)

in which n is equal to 1, 2, 4, 6, or 8.

13. (new) The method of claim 12 wherein n is 1.

14. (new) The method of claim 11 wherein the at least one shogaol is in the form of a crude extract of a plant in the *Zingiberaceae* family.

15. (new) The method of claim 14 including obtaining said crude extract by a process comprising the steps of:

(a) grinding the rhizomes of a plant in the *Zingiberaceae* family,

(b) macerating said ground rhizomes in an organic solvent or mixture of organic solvents at a temperature of between 10 and 35°C; and

(c) either (i) extracting said ground rhizomes one or more times with an organic solvent or mixture of organic solvents under reflux, or (ii) percolating said ground rhizomes at a temperature of between 10 and 35°C with an organic solvent or mixture of organic solvents.

16. (new) The method of claim 11 wherein the at least one shogaol is in the form of a purified extract of a plant of the *Zingiberaceae* family.

17. (new) The method of claim 16 including obtaining said purified extract by a process comprising the steps

(a) grinding the rhizomes of a plant in the *Zingiberaceae* family;

(b) macerating said ground rhizomes in an organic solvent or mixture of organic solvents at a temperature of between 10 and 35°C;

(c) either (i) extracting said ground rhizomes one or more times with an organic solvent or mixture of organic solvents under reflux, or (ii) percolating said ground rhizomes at a temperature of between 10 and 35°C with an organic solvent or mixture of organic solvents;

(d) removing said organic solvent or mixture of organic solvents;

(e) dissolving said extract in water;

(f) subjecting said extract in water to one or more countercurrent extractions by means of an organic solvent or mixture of organic solvents immiscible with water to provide a purified extract; and

(g) subjecting said purified extract to chromatographic separation to isolate the shogaols contained within said purified extract.

18. (new) The method of claim 14 wherein said plant of the *Zingiberaceae* family is selected from the group consisting of the species *Alpinia galanga*, *Alpinia officinarum*, *Zingiber officinalis*, *Zingiber cassumunar*, and *Zingiber zerumbet*.

19. (new) The method of claim 16 wherein said plant of the *Zingiberaceae* family is selected from the group consisting of the species *Alpinia galanga*, *Alpinia officinarum*, *Zingiber officinalis*, *Zingiber cassumunar*, and *Zingiber zerumbet*.

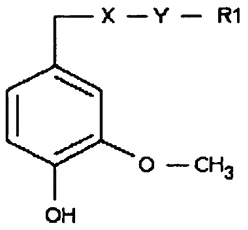
20. (new) The method of claim 18 wherein said plant of the *Zingiberaceae* family comprises *Alpinia galanga*.

21. (new) The method of claim 19 wherein said plant of the *Zingiberaceae* family comprises *Alpinia galanga*.

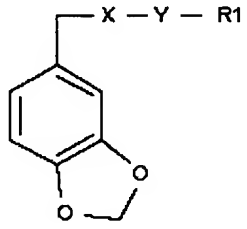
22. (new) The method of claim 9 wherein said vanilloid compound is administered in the form of a nasal spray.

23. (new) The method of claim 9 wherein said vanilloid compound is administered in the form of a mouth spray.

24. (new) A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of sleep apnea comprising a vanilloid compound selected from the group consisting of the following formulae:



(I) and



(II)

wherein

X represents a linear, saturated, monounsaturated or polyunsaturated, and substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_4 alkyl group;

Y is selected from the group consisting of -C(O)N- and -zC(O)-; and

R1 represents a linear, branched or cyclic chain, saturated, monounsaturated or polyunsaturated, and substituted or unsubstituted C_2-C_{24} alkyl group.